

heteroatom E is attached to the sulfur which in turn is linked via a group G to the silicon atom;

each R is chosen independently from hydrogen, straight, cyclic, or branched alkyl that may or may not contain unsaturation, alkenyl groups, aryl groups, and aralkyl groups, with each R containing from 1 to 18 carbon atoms;

each G is independently a monovalent or polyvalent group derived by substitution of alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, or aralkyl, wherein G can contain from 1 to 18 carbon atoms, and if G is univalent, G can be a hydrogen atom; X is independently selected from the group consisting of -Cl, -Br, RO-, RC(=O)O-, R<sub>2</sub>C=NO-, R<sub>2</sub>NO-, R<sub>2</sub>N-, -R, and -(OSiR<sub>2</sub>)<sub>t</sub>(OSiR<sub>3</sub>) wherein each R is as above and at least one X is not -R;

p is 0 to 5; r is 1 to 3; z is 0 to 2; q is 0 to 6; a is 0 to 7; b is 1 to 3; j is 0 to 1, but it may be 0 only if p is 1; c is 1 to 6; t is 0 to 5; s is 1 to 3; k is 1 to 2; with the provisos that (I) if A is carbon, sulfur or sulfonyl, then (i) a + b is 2 and (ii) k is 1; (II) if A is phosphorus, then a + b is 3 unless both (i) c is greater than 1 and (ii) b is 1, in which case a is c + 1; and (III) if A is phosphorus, then k is 2.

3. (Amended) A blocked mercaptosilane according to claim 1 according to formula (1).

4. (Amended) A blocked mercaptosilane according to claim 1 according to formula (2).

6. (Amended) A blocked mercaptosilane according to claim 1 wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of: -SC(=O)-; -S(=O)-; -OS(=O)-; -(-S)P(=O)-; and -P(=O)(-)₂.

Cancel Claims 14-32 without prejudice.

Add new Claims 33-40:

33. (New) A blocked mercaptosilane selected from the group consisting of:

$[(ROC(=O))_p-(G)]_k-Y-S]_r-G-(SiX_3)_s$  (1); and

$[(X_3Si)_q-G]_a-[Y-[S-G-SiX_3]_b]_c$  (2)

wherein

Y is  $-OC(=O)-$ ;

each R is chosen independently from hydrogen, straight, cyclic, or branched alkyl that may or may not contain unsaturation, alkenyl groups, aryl groups, and aralkyl groups, with each R containing from 1 to 18 carbon atoms;

each G is independently a monovalent or polyvalent group derived by substitution of alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, or aralkyl, wherein G can contain from 1 to 18 carbon atoms, and if G is univalent, G can be a hydrogen atom;

X is independently selected from the group consisting of  $-Cl$ ,  $-Br$ ,  $RO-$ ,  $RC(=O)O-$ ,  $R_2C=NO-$ ,  $R_2NO-$ ,  $R_2N-$  and  $-R$  wherein each R is as above and at least one X is not  $-R$ ;

p is 0 to 5; r is 1 to 3; z is 0 to 2; q is 0 to 6; a is 0 to 7; b is 1 to 3; j is 0 to 1, but it may be 0 only if p is 1; c is 1 to 6; t is 0 to 5; s is 1 to 3; k is 1 to 2; with the provisos that (I) if A is carbon, sulfur or sulfonyl, then (i) a + b is 2 and (ii) k is 1; (II) if A is phosphorus, then a + b is 3 unless both (i) c is greater than 1 and (ii) b is 1, in which case a is c + 1; and (III) if A is phosphorus, then k is 2.

34. (New) A blocked mercaptosilane according to claim 33 wherein R is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, isobutyl, phenyl, tolyl, phenethyl, norbornyl,

norbornenyl, ethylnorbornyl, ethylnorbornenyl, ethylcyclohexyl, ethylcyclohexenyl, and cyclohexylcyclohexyl.

35. (New) A blocked mercaptosilane according to claim 33 according to formula (1).

36. (New) A blocked mercaptosilane according to claim 33 according to formula (2).

37. (New) A blocked mercaptosilane according to claim 33 which has been partially hydrolyzed.

38. (New) A blocked mercaptosilane according to claim 33 wherein the sum of the carbon atoms within the G groups within the molecule is from 3 to 18.

39. (New) A blocked mercaptosilane according to claim 33 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of methoxy, ethoxy, isobutoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, acetoxy, and oximato.

40. (New) A blocked mercaptosilane according to claim 33 wherein p is 0 to 2; X is RO- or RC(=O)O-; R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, phenyl, isopropyl, cyclohexyl, isobutyl; and G is a substituted phenyl or substituted straight chain alkyl of C<sub>2</sub> to C<sub>12</sub>.